

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BERN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6590
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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EO 11652: N/A
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SUBJ: SWISS REACTION TO DISSIDENT TRIALS IN SOVIET UNION

REF: STATE 178559

1. SWISS PRESS HAS GIVEN FULL PLAY TO RECENT DISSIDENT TRIALS IN THE SOVIET UNION. OFFICIAL REACTION CAME ON JULY 14 WHEN CHIEF OF THE FEDERAL POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, AUBERT, HAD SOVIET AMBASSADOR LAVROV SUMMONED TO THE DEPARTMENT. LAVROV WAS RECEIVED BY CHIEF OF THE FIRST POLITICAL SECTION, AMBASSADOR HEGNER, WHO INFORMED HIM THAT SWITZERLAND WAS PREPARED TO OFFER POLITICAL ASYLUM TO ALL SOVIET DISSIDENTS.

2. FULL TEXT OF THE COMMUNIQUE RELEASED AFTER THE MEETING STATED: "THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO SWITZERLAND, VLADIMIR S. LAVROV, WAS RECEIVED TODAY IN THE FEDERAL POLITICAL DEPARTMENT. AMBASSADOR A. HEGNER, CHIEF OF THE FIRST POLITICAL SECTION, EMPHASIZED IN THE NAME OF THE CHIEF OF THE DEPARTMENT, THE DISPLEASURE OF THE GOVERNMENT
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AND PEOPLE OF SWITZERLAND WITH THE TRIALS IN THE SOVIET UNION AGAINST DISSIDENTS. THESE TRIALS ARE HARDLY CONSISTENT WITH THE FINAL ACTS FROM HELSINKI. SWITZERLAND IS PREPARED TO RECEIVE THOSE DISSIDENTS AFFECTED BY THESE PROCEEDINGS."

3. ALSO ON JULY 14, THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UPPER AND

LOWER HOUSES OF THE SWISS PARLIAMENT WERE REQUESTED BY ISRAELI KNESSET PRESIDENT Y-SHAMIR TO PROTEST PUBLICLY AGAINST THE DISSIDENT TRIALS. NATIONAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT ALFRED BUSSEY AND COUNCIL OF STATES PRESIDENT ROBERT REIMANN REPORTEDLY DECLINED TO DO SO BECAUSE, WITHOUT PRIOR PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL, ONLY THE FEDERAL POLITICAL DEPARTMENT IS AUTHORIZED TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE SWISS GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE IN THE FIELD OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. BUSSEY AND REIMANN "SPEAKING PERSONALLY" WERE QUOTED IN PRESS AS SAYING THE MAJORITY OF THE SWISS PEOPLE WOULD SUPPORT A STATEMENT OF PROTEST.

4. THE PRESIDENT OF THE SWISS CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS, MGR. PIERRE MAMIE, SENT A TELEGRAM OF PROTEST AGAINST THE DISSIDENT TRIALS TO THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN BERN. CROWLEY

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